

REMARKS

Claims 1-38 are presently pending in the application. Claims 1-10 were allowed and claims 16 and 18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claims, but would also be allowed is rewritten in independent form. Claims 12-15, 17, and 19-38 have been rejected.

Applicants have amended claim 12 to include allowable claim 16 and intervening dependent claim 15. Dependent claims 13, 14, and 17 should also be allowable. Additionally, allowable claim 18 has been amended to include independent claim 12 and 15. Dependent claims 19-25 should, therefore, also be allowable. Claims 11, 15, 16, 18, and 26-38 have been canceled. It is believed that claims 1-10, 12-14, and 17-25 should be allowable over the cited art.

Reconsideration and reexamination of the present application is requested in view of the foregoing amendment and in view of the following remarks.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated July 20, 2004. Claims 1-10, 12-14, and 17-25 will be pending in the present application upon entry of the present amendment, with all claims being independent. Based on the amendments and remarks set forth herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject patent application is in condition for allowance. Because the claims may include additional elements that are not taught or suggested by the cited art, the preceding arguments in favor of patentability are advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability.

Upon entry of the foregoing Response, the above-identified patent application includes 3 independent claims. Because Applicants have previously paid for 38 total claims and 5 independent claims, Applicants submit that no additional fee is due. Should it be determined that any additional fee is due or any excess fee has been received, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to deposit account #19-0761.

Should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions that would place the subject patent application in better condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned agent at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted:

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Scientific-Atlanta, Inc.
Intellectual Property Dept. MS 4.3.510
5030 Sugarloaf Parkway
Lawrenceville, GA 30044

By: 
SHELLEY L. COUTURIER
Agent of Record
Reg. No. 47,503
Phone: (770) 236-2352
Fax No.: (770) 236-4806

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on October 4, 2004.


Eaye Ropski